



School Success Scorecard

from SOAR[®] Learning & Soft Skills for College & Career Success

Welcome to the SOAR[®] School Success Scorecard!

Dear Fellow Parent,

I used to struggle in school; I would study for hours for a test, then “bomb” it. My grades did not reflect my effort and I often gave up. I figured, “What’s the point of trying if I’m just going to fail anyway?”

Does this sound familiar?

As parents, we are frustrated to see our children wandering aimlessly through their schoolwork: losing assignments, poorly preparing for tests, and not working to their potential. Eventually, we see them develop a “bad attitude” and wonder how we can ever motivate them to do better in school.

Most students struggle in school because they don’t know how to study or organize themselves. The K-12 system is not built to teach these skills because national and state standards are based on content, not on processing. As we struggle to prepare students for a competitive global economy, they need to learn how to learn strategically.

My life changed when I learned how to apply strategies to school work! I was a new college student when I was finally introduced to “study skills.” Immediately, my grades skyrocketed to a 3.9 GPA...and I reached those grades in much less time than it took to get mediocre grades all through elementary, middle, and high school.

Since that time, I have been teaching, tutoring, and authoring programs designed to help students learn what I wish I had learned much earlier in life. These strategies are not rocket science nor are they time-consuming. They are simply...*strategic!*

School becomes much more interesting and motivating when a student can become a strategic player of the game, not just a bystander who is forced to do a “ton” of assignments they don’t want to do.

This School Success Scorecard will help you evaluate your own situation and identify the best options that will make the greatest impact. You will be amazed at how quickly your toughest challenges can be eliminated!

To your success,

Susan Kruger, M.Ed.

SOAR[®] Learning & Soft Skills Is the Best-Selling Study Skills Program in the World!





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Motivation & The Spiral of Success

Motivation is the #1 question I hear from parents! You may take the Scorecard, look at your Action Plan, and think...

“This is great, but how can I get *my* child to try this?”

I deal with this issue of motivation in all of my classes, too. See Section One of the Action Plan on page 5 for details on how I handle this situation with my students. As a parent, however, you hold an extra key to motivating your child...

Celebrate your child’s strengths! The importance of recognizing your child’s interests and talents cannot be overstated. Children with learning challenges have so many struggles, get so much negative feedback, and are constantly reminded of what they *don’t* do well, that they need a steady source of positive encouragement!

I talk to a lot of frustrated parents...

When I ask them the questions below, their faces light up with a smile, their shoulders relax, and their voices lighten with joy! So, before you go any further, take a moment to reflect on these “magic” questions. Be sure to share your answers with your child, too; everyone loves to hear some positive feedback!

I want your child or teen to experience the same sense of success, confidence, and motivation that I did. Start by celebrating strengths and you’ll quickly create your own Spiral of Success!



The SOAR[®] Spiral of Success
We will take your child or teen’s toughest challenges and flip them into successes! This will launch an outward spiral of positivity into every aspect of their life!

Celebrate Your Child or Teen’s Strengths!

<p><i>What does your child enjoy doing? What is he good at? What are his strengths and talents...in and out of school?</i></p>	
<p><i>What gives her the greatest sense of pride? What will she stick with, even when she’s frustrated?</i></p>	
<p><i>What comes easiest to your child in school?</i></p>	
<p><i>In what settings is your child most comfortable?</i></p>	

The **Scorecards** on pages 3 & 4 will help you identify your toughest challenges...

the **Action Plans** on page 5 & 6 will flip them into successes quickly!



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For Parents

DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ next to each comment that reflects a common challenge for you or your child.
Total the checkmarks for each box.

Section One

1.	“He’s just not motivated.”
2.	“He struggles with several school tasks.”
3.	“She does not have a lot of confidence in school.”
4.	“He generally seems down on himself.”
5.	“We often argue over school and homework.”
6.	“He doesn’t understand that school needs to be a priority.”
7.	“Her performance/motivation in her classes often depends on how well she likes the teacher.”
Total	

Section Two

8.	“Our schedules are crazy! It’s hard to fit in homework.”
9.	“She saves everything for the last minute!”
10.	“I have to ‘nag’ him to get his homework done.”
11.	“I’m tired of always having to be in charge!”
12.	“It takes him longer to do homework than it should.”
13.	“Homework takes a ‘back seat’ to other activities.”
14.	“Mornings are really rushed and chaotic!”
Total	

Section Three

15.	“School papers never make it home.”
16.	“She often brings the wrong folders and notebooks home for homework.”
17.	“His book bag is a mess!”
18.	“She loses her homework before she even gets home.”
19.	“I saw him do his homework, but his teacher says he did not turn it in.”
20.	“It’s a challenge keeping track of all of the school papers, sports schedules, lunch menus, etc.”
21.	“He spends a lot of his homework time just trying to find supplies to do his homework.”
Total	

Section Four

22.	“She doesn’t remember what she reads in a textbook.”
23.	“He doesn’t pay attention well in class.”
24.	“She does not know how to take good notes.”
25.	“Writing assignments are really challenging.”
26.	“She does not know how to study for tests.”
27.	“She ‘freezes’ on tests and has a hard time with test anxiety.”
28.	“She’s overwhelmed when she has to study for a final exam, midterm, or major unit test.”
Total	

SCORING: If your child has taken the “Student Scorecard,” compile both scores. Begin with the section that has greatest number of checkmarks. Find the correlating Action Plan for each section on pages 5 & 6.



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For Students

DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ next to each comment that describes a common challenge for you.
Total the checkmarks for each box.

Section One

1.	"I don't understand the point of school."
2.	"If I don't like a teacher, I find it really hard to be motivated for that class."
3.	"My parent(s) don't 'get' me. They don't appreciate the things I'm interested in."
4.	"I often argue with my parent(s) about school and homework."
5.	"I would not describe myself as a 'confident' person."
6.	"I don't think I have many talents."
7.	"I don't feel smart...especially in school."
Total	

Section Two

8.	"Homework takes forever! I wish I could get it done in half the time."
9.	"I don't feel motivated to study or finish a project until the last minute."
10.	"My parent(s) nag me too much about homework."
11.	"I often forget about homework assignments and tests; it's really hard to keep track of everything!"
12.	"I have a hard time getting started on homework. It's hard to sit still; I don't know what to do first..."
13.	"I often forget books, notebooks, and folders at school that I need for homework."
14.	"I get frustrated when my parents plan things for me to do without giving me any warning."
Total	

Section Three

15.	"I sometimes lose homework before I even get home to do it."
16.	"Sometimes, I will do my homework, but lose it before I get back to school. It's really frustrating!"
17.	"My book bag is heavy." "My book bag is a mess."
18.	"I often get to class and realize I've grabbed the wrong folder or notebook from my locker."
19.	"My locker is a mess."
20.	"I have a hard time keeping my room clean."
21.	"When I do homework, I spend a lot of time looking for pens, papers, and other supplies."
Total	

Section Four

22.	"I would love to be able to get better grades in less time!"
23.	"I struggle to stay awake in my classes."
24.	"I don't know how to take good notes."
25.	"I have a hard time reading textbooks; I take forever to read, but I don't remember anything."
26.	"Research papers totally overwhelm me."
27.	"Studying for tests is tricky, <i>especially</i> final exams! I don't know what to study or how to remember it."
28.	"I have a hard time taking tests; they make me nervous and I always think I should do better."
Total	

SCORING: If your parent has taken the "Parent Scorecard," compile both scores. Begin with the section that has greatest number of checkmarks. Find the correlating Action Plan for each section on pages 5 & 6.



School Success Scorecard
from SOAR® Study Skills

Section One

Confidence & Motivation

Motivation is, by far, the most common concern for parents! They worry that their child is not motivated in school...or motivated to try the strategies in SOAR.

I deal with this issue in every study skills class I teach. 80% of my students are there because a parent is making them attend. So, I acknowledge how they feel and make them a promise they can't refuse.

I begin by explaining, "I know you are tired of doing homework and slogging through school. The last thing you want is to take on *more* work. But, I don't *want* you to have more work. I want you to do well in school, while creating more time for 'fun stuff.'" I promise to show you how get better grades...in *less* time!" Students always appreciate my honesty...and they *love* my promise. Of course, I deliver!

Another important key to motivation is to celebrate your child's strengths! Students with learning challenges are so used to struggling and focusing on what they *can't* do, that they need a lot of positive input! Priscilla Vail, author of *Smart Kids with School Problems*, says that emotions are the on/off switch to learning!

"This is more useful and interesting than any other class!"
– Shane D, 9th Grade

Action Plan for Section One

1. [SOAR® Learning & Soft Skills App](#)
 - Lesson 1: *HOW Are You Smart?*
 - Section 5: *Record Your Progress*



School Success Scorecard
from SOAR® Study Skills

Section Two

Setting Goals & Managing Time

I am very aware of how "simple" tasks can take long time to complete. However, the one thing I know how to do is manage school and homework quickly and efficiently!

"Managing time" sounds stifling and boring. The truth is, it is very, freeing! A simple system for managing all of your homework, plans, and responsibilities frees up your mental energy so dramatically, you will literally *feel* a giant weight lift off your shoulders!

Teachers agree that students who use a planner consistently earn A's & B's; if you can keep track of assignments, turn them in on time, and show up for a test with even a small amount of preparation, it's difficult to earn less than a B. Even if you *really* struggle with a subject, a planner provides the lift you need to pass.

But, the process for using a planner often requires more bandwidth than it is designed to save. SOAR streamlines the steps needed to use a planner by 72%!

This means, you can become 72% more effective at tracking your assignments and managing your time...and start earning better grades in less time!

"I was getting C's and D's. Now I am getting A's and B's! I learned how to be organized and how to study...it has made such a difference!" – Katie H, 11th Grade

Action Plan for Section Two

1. [Homework Help for Parents audio](#)
The audio tracks help parents support these strategies at home, without having to be a "nag." Parents and child/teen can also listen together, while in the car or "on the go."
 - *Time Management for Families*: Section 3
2. [SOAR® Learning & Soft Skills App, Section 2](#)
 - Lesson 2: *Establish Your Priorities*
 - Lesson 3: *Identify Your Goals*
 - Lesson 4: *Establish Your Priorities*



Section Three
Organizing

Imagine how much *less* stress you would feel if you could get your homework home and back to school without any trouble or effort?

Imagine how much time you would save if you didn't have to search for your homework every evening?

Traditional methods for organizing actually *cause* the problem. Teachers have good intentions when they ask you to have a separate folder and notebook for each class.

The problem is, that adds up to 12-18 different folders and notebooks! This is entirely too much "stuff" to manage. It is the equivalent of adults having 12-18 different email inboxes to keep track of every day! (Adults don't even have to move their email inboxes to several different places every day: to school, the locker, several classes, back home...)

The SOAR® Binder System (for 5th grade+) streamline papers and notebooks into ONE item. The right supplies *and* system will transform this process for you!

Don't worry! We address how to handle your new system with teachers. Also, your friends are going to see how simple and easy it is for you to use your binder, they will want to use one, too!

"I can't believe how much easier it is for me to keep my papers organized. Since I started using the Binder, I have not lost one assignment! My parents are so excited and I feel so much better about school. Thank you!" – Michael Z, 9th Grade

Action Plan for Section Three

1. [Homework Help for Parents audio](#)
The audio tracks help parents support these strategies at home, without having to be a "nag." Parents and child/teen can also listen together, while in the car or "on the go."
 - Organize: Section 4
2. [SOAR® Learning & Soft Skills App, Section 3](#)
 - Lesson 5: Organize Your Papers
 - Lesson 6: Organize Your Space
 - Lesson 7: Organize Your Time



Section Four
Asking Questions & Learning

"Connections" are the lifblood of learning; everything you have learned, you have learned by connecting new information to something you already understand.

When you make these connections, you actually change the grey matter in your brain as your neurons make new connections and forge new pathways.

When you learn how to harness the power of making connections for learning, you will change your life! Your study time will go from: long, dreadful, unproductive, and painful hours, to fast, interesting, effective, and *almost* enjoyable minutes!

The quickest and most consistent way to make connections is through the process of asking questions. The strategies in the SOAR® will illustrate how to use questions to:

1. Communicate with teachers & peers,
2. Read textbooks quickly and with great comprehension,
3. Write research papers & give presentation,
4. Take notes,
5. Prepare for tests, and
6. Taking tests.

"I used to get really nervous taking tests. But, once I learned how to get control over what to learn before a test and what to do on a test, I am so much more confident!" – Sachi I, 11th Grade

Action Plan for Section Four

1. [Homework Help for Parents audio](#)
The audio tracks help parents support these strategies at home, without having to be a "nag." Parents and child/teen can also listen together, while in the car or "on the go."
 - Ask Questions: Section 5
2. [SOAR® Learning & Soft Skills App, Section 4](#)
 - Lesson 8: How to Speak & Listen Effectively
 - Lesson 9: How to Work With Teachers & Peers
 - Lesson 10: How to Read Textbooks & Nonfiction
 - Lesson 11: How to Take & Study Notes
 - Lesson 12: How to Take Tests
 - Lesson 13: How to Write Papers
 - Lesson 14: How to Give a Presentation
 - Lesson 15: How to Use Language Resources



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The SOAR[®] Learning & Soft Skills App = Simplicity!

The app covers the entire SOAR[®] Learning & Soft Skills workbook, presented as a self-guided course.



The Online App Includes:

- Interactive content/games, providing immediate feedback
- “How-to” videos, illustrating strategies
- Fully narrated slides, for reading support
- Quizzes/assessments, to ensure understanding of material
- Badges & certificates awarded for achievements
- Easy access from any computer or mobile device

The SOAR[®] App is appropriate for students in:

middle school • high school

To order, or for more information, visit:

www.StudySkills.com/app